

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2893

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2195

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, XH, NATO
SUBJECT: ECONADS: SOVIET FISHING FLEET

REF: (A) STATE 83296 (B) AC/127-WP/503

1. AT APRIL 14 ECONADS, UK REP (POWLES) REPORTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAVE EVIDENCE THAT USSR IS GEARING UP TO ENGAGE IN DEEP WATER FISHING. HE, THEREFORE, SUGGESTED THAT PARA 65 OF REF B BE REVISED AND OFFERED TO PASS BACKGROUND INFO TO DIRECTORATE.

2. UK REP ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PARA 52 BE REVISED ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: BEGIN TEXT:
"IT IS GENERAL KNOWLEDGE THAT SOME TRAWLER HULLS WHICH HAVE BEEN RE-DESIGNED AS INTELLIGENCE COLLECTORS, ARE USED TO MONITOR RADIO AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TO CARRY OUT SURVEILLANCE MISSIONS AND TO SPY ON THE ACTIVITY OF NATO COUNTRIES' NAVAL FORCES. THE BASIC DESIGN OF THE HOLDS OF STERN TRAWLERS IS SUCH THAT THEY CAN BE CONVERTED VERY QUICKLY INTO MINE LAYERS, THE LARGER ONES BEING CAPABLE OF CONVEYING SEVERAL HUNDRED MINES. SUCH TRAWLERS COULD, IN TIMES OF SERIOUS TENSION, INTERFERE WITH NATO SHIPPING, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT
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PURPOSE BUILT SHIPS WOULD BE USED IN PREFERENCE. IN ADDITION TRAWLERS CAN ALSO BE CONVERTED INTO MINE SWEEPERS. THE SOVIET FISHING FLEET CAN BE USED AS AN EXTENSION OF THE SOVIET NAVY ON SPECIFIC MILITARY DUTIES."

3. SINCE THE ABOVE PARA TENDS TO TONE DOWN MILITARY ASPECTS OF FISHING FLEET AS SUGGESTED (REF A), WE RECOMMEND ACCEPTING IT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON UK SUGGESTED REVISIONS.

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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